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TAGS: [SNAR](#) [KCRM](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [EUN](#) [USEU](#) [BRUSSELS](#)

SUBJECT: CENTRAL DUBLIN GROUP MEETING: FEBRUARY 2005

REF: A) 04 USEU BRUSSELS 02683 B) STATE 32778

¶1. Summary. During its February 18 meeting, the members of the Central Dublin Group (DG) reviewed regional reports from Northern Africa (submitted by Spain), Other African Countries (France), the Caribbean (France), South America (Spain), and Central America/Mexico (U.S.). The U.K. gave a presentation on Afghanistan's 2005 Counter Narcotics Implementation Plan. The DG Chair presented a matrix containing key points of proposals submitted by the members for reform of the Dublin Group and asked that members convene on the sidelines of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna in March with their suggestions on changes to the DG Guidelines. The chair will also be issuing an appeal for candidates for chairman of the Central DG, replacing Ray Yans who has been chair since 2002. UDEL to the meeting included INL/PC Scott Harris, DEA attache Chris Kabel and USEU/NAS Frank Kerber. End summary.

Thematic Discussion on Afghanistan

¶2. Keith Grieve, who substituted for Lesley Pallet of the U.K.'s FCO Department on Drugs and International Crime, gave a brief overview of Afghanistan's 2005 Counter Narcotics Implementation Plan. (See reftel B) He said the Afghan Government's Drugs Unit became operational on February 1. The UNODC rep noted indications are that the 2005 poppy cultivation will decline from the 130,000 MT produced in 2004 and which accounted for almost 60% of GDP. He said the UNODC is participating in the verification program, but is not part of the eradication program. A letter from several NGOs to Secretary Rice dated January 31, 2005 on stemming

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Afghanistan's drug trade was circulated as a room document but was not commented upon by the members. USDEL noted the extent of the Afghan heroin crisis: Afghanistan now supplies more than 85% of the world's heroin, morphine and opium. The U.S. welcomes the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to overcoming these challenges, and to aid Afghanistan's efforts, the U.S. is committed to supporting a comprehensive range of assistance activities covering all aspects of the problem and promoting lasting change, including eradication; alternative livelihood programs; law enforcement programs; criminal justice assistance and public information campaigns. The U.S. believes that the UNODC-administered Paris Pact is an effective mechanism for identifying areas for and coordination of international counter narcotics assistance across transit regions from Afghanistan, especially for Central Asia and the Balkans. The UNODC rep announced that the next Paris Pact roundtable will be held in Islamabad March 21-22. The Japanese rep noted that Afghanistan imports precursor chemical for drug production. There is a need for greater border controls. In response to a question from the EC representative regarding aerial spraying, USDEL responded that the U.S. will support the Afghan Government's decision to use manual eradication in conjunction with alternative livelihood development in 2005. If this is not effective, we may need to consider alternative strategies.

Regional Reports

¶3. The members reviewed regional reports from Northern Africa (submitted by Spain), Other African Countries (France), the Caribbean (France), South America (Spain), and Central America/Mexico (U.S.). In presenting the report on Central America/Mexico, the U.S. rep noted that across the region, there are strong indications that domestic drug consumption is rising, particularly for cocaine and synthetic drugs. Governments are clearly disturbed by this trend, and in some cases, domestic demand reduction and treatment programs are being expended. This is a relatively new problem for governments in the region to confront, and such domestic efforts are beginning from a very low baseline. Donor assistance will be greatly in need for the foreseeable future. Almost without exception, there are clear causal linkages between the prevalence of drug production and trafficking and the absence of state institutions. Donors need to consider the development of law enforcement and judicial institutions as a vital, mainstream component of overall development strategies.

14. Spain and the U.S. agreed to keep the present regional chairs for another two years. The U.S. rep noted a room document entitled "List of EU Projects in Russia, including HIV/AIDS" which had been distributed by the Commission. He said this was a very helpful document and suggested the DG might produce similar compilations for other countries or regions. The U.K. rep noted a roundtable on organized crime to be held in Addis Ababa on May 8-9, sponsored by the UNODC and the African Union. The conference will examine the links between drugs and crime to development problems in Africa.

Self Evaluation of the Dublin Group

15. The DG Chair presented a matrix containing key points of proposals submitted by the members for reform of the Dublin Group. Reform proposals had been submitted by the U.S., Japan, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Germany and the Commission. The Chair asked that members convene on the sidelines of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna in March with their suggestions on changes to the DG Guidelines. These texts will then be examined by a working group composed of the U.K., the U.S., Italy and the Commission which will make final recommendations for consideration by the summer DG meeting. The chair will also be issuing an appeal for candidates for chairman of the Central DG, replacing Ray Yans who has been chair since 2002.

McKinley

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